Section I: AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a return of an item purchased from a selling merchant by a remote customer, said method comprising:

receiving an order for said item from said customer, said order including customer-related information;

storing said customer-related information in a storage device;

sending said item to said customer by said selling merchant;

receiving a return communication from said customer requesting a return of said item to said selling merchant;

retrieving said customer-related information from said storage device; ~~and~~

effecting an auction of said item by said selling merchant following said receiving of said return communication from said customer; and

sending a shipping communication including portions of said customer-related information to said customer, said shipping communication identifying a receiving entity ~~other than said selling merchant~~ to whom said item is to be returned, said receiving party being a winner of said auction.